

S1E14 - St. Winkus Day

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SPEAKERS

Elle Billing, Ricki Cummings

- E** Elle Billing 00:00
Hi, my name is Elle Billing. I am a chronically ill queer femme, and I'm tired. I'm here this episode and every episode to dig at the roots of our collective fatigue, explore ways to direct our care in compassionate and sustainable ways, and harness creative expression to heal ourselves and our world. And welcome to Hoorf: Radical care in a late capitalist heckscape. Hi, Ricki,
- R** Ricki Cummings 00:49
hello. It's Wednesday my dudes.
- E** Elle Billing 00:52
But what color do we wear on Wednesdays? I don't know.
- R** Ricki Cummings 00:55
I'm wearing Black, you're wearing black? Yeah, every day is black.
- E** Elle Billing 00:59
I was gonna try and make a Mean Girls reference. And I don't actually know that movie very well. Because it's like, painful for me to watch it. So I failed. I think it's on Wednesdays we wear pink but like I think they wear pink every day.
- R** Ricki Cummings 01:12

Yeah. Well, I mean, I wear black pretty much every day.

E Elle Billing 01:15

It is a very special day today. Because it's like the day that the long awaited like origin story comic book comes out. You know, it's like, how did Wolverine get that cool skeleton, except this is like,

R Ricki Cummings 01:31

less horrifying.

E Elle Billing 01:33

Much less horrifying. This is charming and cute and weird. It's "what's Hoorf?"

R Ricki Cummings 01:39

Yeah,

E Elle Billing 01:40

we're gonna read my dog's diary today. I can't even say that. So, April is the cruelest month, right? We have talked about this sort of just through text messages. And it's from a poem, right?

R Ricki Cummings 02:01

Yeah, it's from the opening lines of the Wasteland by TS Eliot.

E Elle Billing 02:05

So the first time I actually quoted that I didn't know I was quoting a famous poem by TS Eliot. I was just having a really terrible month. And I ended up sounding like really literary and smart when I wrote an email to my grad school advisors. Like, I think I just, it's one of those things were like you have ADHD. And so you're just constantly picking up an unfiltered stream of information all the time through all your, all our senses. And so like, I'm sure I'd heard it before -- "April is the cruelest month" -- It's just the thing that you hear, right? over here. And so I included it in this email. And it made me sound really smart, while also having the worst month ever. And then one of my advisors was all poetical. replying back to me, and it was like, Oh, we're smart people. And then later, I was like, oh, no, that's really a thing. Like I thought I was just being wordsmithy. And I was quoting TS Eliot, like a nerd. So anyway, April's a tough

month, and has been for two reasons. Even though my birthday was this month, and I love my birthday. And baseball starts in April, and I was, have historically been a baseball fan. Like, just April is a really hard month of transitions. The weather makes me very ill at the end of the school year is upon us, and that makes things stressful for teachers and students, loved ones have passed in April. It's just a tough month. So we wanted to do a fun episode. And that's actually sort of how this podcast even emerged was from us being dorks one April.

R

Ricki Cummings 03:41

Yeah.

E

Elle Billing 03:42

And so that's why we're here. Hoorf-- the name of the podcast-- is a sound my dog makes. I have a deaf dog. Her name is Winkie. I've talked about her a lot on this podcast. And she makes this noise that can only be described as Hoorf.

R

Ricki Cummings 04:00

Like it's not really a bark. It's not really a growl. It's not it. It almost sounds like a burp and a bark and a sneeze and a howl and like it's every sound a dog can make all at once, basically.

E

Elle Billing 04:14

Yeah. And it's it's a very versatile, universally applicable word. It can be used for disgust. It can be used for contentment, it can be used as an interjection. It can be used as a verb, you know, it's just a really great word. And so we're just going to have a whole day, a whole episode dedicated to my dog Winkie because she's great, and it'll like become evident as we go. That Winkie really is her own character in our lives and the podcast and is really the reason that we do anything in life. And I think that's true for a lot of millennials who have pets. I'm not gonna like go too far down that rabbit hole. We're really into our animals and Winkie is no exception. So Winkie

R

Ricki Cummings 05:01

Winkie is people

E

Elle Billing 05:03

Winkie is a people and she thinks she's a people, too, except when she's not like this, this episode is gonna go off the rails, and it's gonna be delightful. Winkie came into my life in 2018, I was dating a fellow who had two dogs, and I really enjoyed having his dogs around. And he was going to be moving to Wisconsin, and I was like, What am I going to do without the dogs? Like, I knew I was gonna miss him, but like, you know, you could talk to people on the phone,

but I was like, You can't talk to a dog on the phone. You can't cuddle a dog when it leaves you, like, what am I going to do with these dogs? So I started looking for a dog at the shelter. And then a friend from work said hey, do you want a deaf dog? I was like, Heck yes, I do.

R

Ricki Cummings 05:53

Do I?!

E

Elle Billing 05:54

DO I?! Yeah, cuz I worked at a deaf school and there was this friend for work's best friend raises cattle dogs, and it was like the third deaf pup that they had got. And that's how I ended up with the most eccentric dog I think that lives on this, on this planet. And I have been told multiple times by that rancher how nervous she was about placing Winkie in a home that wasn't her own. But she knew that we needed like a special place with somebody who was as weird as Winkie is.

R

Ricki Cummings 06:27

Yeah.

E

Elle Billing 06:29

And like every time I post something about Winkie online, she knows that she made the right choice because I am as like Winky, and I are like soulmates because we're both goofy.

R

Ricki Cummings 06:40

Yeah.

E

Elle Billing 06:41

So Winkie started posting on my Facebook. The week that I got her. There must have been difficult with no thumbs. She a genius, Ricki. So start it so June 2018 is when she started posting on my Facebook. She wrote Hi, my name is Winkie. I am deaf. I went to the Deaf school for two days. And now I can read and write my new mom is a great English teacher, eh? she's two days and she was able to read and write. I like to smell things, like my mom's feet and her hair and her flowers. Winkie is super into feet, so it's just may come up later. Yeah, I love to lay in the front yard and in the soft yarrow. Last night I got a dandelion seed stuck to my nose. In return for getting to smell all these good smells. I like to make smells for my new mom. I think my farts are a wonderful gift. She was such a good puppy. I am a great chewer. I am very careful. And I chewed the tag from her Pusheen unicorn without damaging her Pusheen or damaging the tag. That takes skill and I'm very skilled. Then she gave me a stupid giraffe and signed No no, no. I always tell my mom when I am bored. She is not smart. And sometimes she

thinks that means I have to pee, but I don't have to pee. I am just bored. She is not smart. My not smart mom tried to give me a bath. So I hid in the tall grass and pretended not to look at her. I was like a hyena in the savanna or like a dingo in the outback. Since I'm Australian. It is wild back there. And I am a sneaky quiet except when I am not quiet at all. But I was sneaky that time. I think I like my new mom, but she is not smart. Oh, well. She pets me nice and scratches my neck. she'll do. Not everyone can be as smart as Winky. She had some attitude. She was 10 months old when I got her and she was like that that first day. I was like, this is a lot like teaching preschool.

R

Ricki Cummings 08:35

Yeah,

E

Elle Billing 08:36

because she she knows sign language. And when I would try to talk to her, she would actually cover her eyes with her paw. So she wouldn't have to look at me and I was like, oh boy, I'm glad I got practice with elementary kids.

R

Ricki Cummings 08:47

Yeah.

E

Elle Billing 08:48

So then a couple days later, June 6. Hi, my name is Winky. I go to Deaf school. My new favorite place to nap is under the table at school. Even though my mom brings all kinds of toys for me. I slept the first day so now I sleep every day. I like routine. I even poop under the same tree every time. Today I met friends at Twin Beans Coffee Company, Jordan and Sarah gave me nice quiet pets. I was a brave dog. Even though new people make me nervous. Jordan smells good. He smells like coffee. He smells like coffee and Corgi. I want to meet his dog. At twin beans. I was a good dog

R

Ricki Cummings 09:26

that's fore shadowing!

E

Elle Billing 09:27

it is foreshadowing. Yeah, I didn't. She didn't know it was when she wrote it. She's just a really good, she's a good writer. At twin beans, I was a good dog and practice to stay. I stay really good but it helps if I see my mom. I maybe was showing off a little bit my good skills. At home I can stay, but instead I make a thing in my throat like I'm sad that goes owwwwwwww. I'm the saddest Dingo that ever was sad. It is so convincing. I only do this between the hours of 7am

and 9am, because that is outside working time and not inside sleeping time. I am a cow dog not a living room dog. Stuffed dinosaurs do not count as dogs. June 9. Hi, my name is Winky. I am a brave dog. Sometimes I do not feel like a brave dog because I am an anxious dog. But here's a list of things that I was brave about: A tall flight of stairs, an unfamiliar doorway, new friends, cats, a cat that booped my nose, the weedwacker. meeting a new friend, letting a new friend hug my mom. I only whined twice. Waiting for my mom to come home from different theater shows. going potty at a hotel, going potty in the backyard when my routine is clearly the front yard. Seeing those cats again. At this point, I think it's I should mention about my dog being anxious is that I brought her to church one time that first month I had her and someone asked if she was my emotional support animal. I was like, No, I'm her emotional support human.

R

Ricki Cummings 11:06

Yeah, you're emotional support partners. You're like, partners and anxiety.

E

Elle Billing 11:12

Yeah. But because I'm an anxious person. Like there's no doubt about that. But this dog doesn't help my anxiety. Yeah. Which is funny, because this next one is about my relationship with my vet. So, Dean is a fan of the podcast and is a collector of my art. And we were friends already when I got Winky. So like, I don't recommend to everybody having your vet on speed dial. Because like, I happen to be friends with my vet already. So he received lots of text messages from me all the time. So June 10. Hi, my name is Winky. And this is a story about my not smart human. Today I went to church, and I met her friend, Dean. I like this man. He is smart and he will be my vet. This is also a story about listening to smart humans. My mom Elle bought dog food for me. But she is an anxious human and there were too many choices. So she texted Dean and said, Oh my gosh, there are too many choices. And I am wiggling out. And Dean is a good friend and a smart vet and he told her some suggestions and said look for AAFCO feeding trials on the label. While my mom I bought a bag to tide us over until she could get better food. Today she thought Winkie's farts are not such a gift. Let's get better food. So she read all the labels and found a good food. They got home and refilled my bowl with a mix of foods because you're not supposed to just change it. And let me tell you Purina is where it's at. And I'm a smart dog and I just learned how to sort things. So mostly now that crap food is a toy and I only ate the good stuff from my bowl. Om nom nom listen to your vet. Buy good food for smart dogs the end. That's my dog.

R

Ricki Cummings 13:01

Food has been a journey for Winky.

E

Elle Billing 13:03

Oh, such a journey. My name is Winky. I am deaf. Not to get political but just kidding. Have you met my mom? She's so she's so smart. Do you know what's great about the Deaf? All the things! Do you know what is unfortunate about the Deaf ?unemployment and

underemployment because people think oh geez, I can't hire someone who can't hear, what else can't they do? The possibility has me wiggling out like I am uninformed and stuff. Deaf and Hard of Hearing people are good employees. Also discrimination is illegal. Back in the day deaf folks got jobs for easy at printing presses and factories because hiring managers said deaf folks don't get distracted and they work hard. The dog next door barks super loud every time I'm in the backyard but lol Oh lol I have no idea. I go about my merry way getting covered in grass and smelling the old chicken poops. not bothered. That is a bad example because I am a dog and Deaf people are not dogs. Forgive me. Here's a better example. People with hearing loss are adept communicators. Some of them are bilingual. They have spent their whole lives in a hearing world. they have skills and strategies. Chances are that as an employee, they will be more creative than a person who does not need to think outside their ear holes. Bark with me now. Discrimination is illegal. Woof She was on it that day,

R

Ricki Cummings 14:32

I'm glad Winky is aware of the ADA.

E

Elle Billing 14:37

She is all about providing accommodations and accessibility in all locations.

R

Ricki Cummings 14:44

Indeed.

E

Elle Billing 14:45

June 16 This is all still the first month I had her; she really commandeered My laptop a lot.

R

Ricki Cummings 14:50

Oh, yeah. Well,

E

Elle Billing 14:52

hi, my name is Winkie. I have a piece of cheatgrass stuck in my tooth. Okay, and I tell you that's one thing I don't miss about Idaho was cheatgrass

R

Ricki Cummings 14:59

Yeah.

E

Elle Billing 15:00

A lot like when a human person gets popcorn stuck. My human person mom has been trying to get it unstuck and I'm kind of patient with this but then I don't have patience anymore and I whip my head away. So that grass is still stuck. Today she was worried because my food bowl was full all day long. She thought my tooth and gums might be so sore that I was not eating. But just now she caught me with my head in the dog food bag. It turns out I'm still mostly okay just making mischief. I am a funny dog.

R

Ricki Cummings 15:32

Cheatgrass and goat heads are they're just awful. Yeah, I'm so glad we don't have to deal with those anymore.

E

Elle Billing 15:39

June 22. Hi, my name is Winky. So what if I went to the groomer today? I am a camera shy toddler and also I got this new bed. I don't like my mom's phone and I just learned how to unplug it when she's texting too much instead of snuggling me. I'm a smart dog. All right, October 2018. My name is Winky. I am a silly dog. Tonight I brought five different toys onto the couch for choo choo time than when mom did not share her ice crea,, I looked her right in the eyes and pushed them off the couch one by one. I am awesome. I was just telling my mom about that, because Winkie won't play with toys anymore. She'll Yeah, she's just going straight for the garbage these days. Well, the recycling like she's tearing up the recycling.

R

Ricki Cummings 16:26

That's no good.

E

Elle Billing 16:27

Nov. 12. My name is Winky. My mom has been sick for days. I have a great suspicion on this adventure which our friend is taking me. I hope it involves ice cream. But I have a great unease. And my mom has been sick for days. I would like to snuggle her please. And thank you

R

Ricki Cummings 16:42

know. awwww, she's the best dog.

E

Elle Billing 16:45

She is the best. for being a very high energy working dog. She like shifts down. Yeah, when I'm sick pretty well. And she now she sort of takes care of my mom too.

R Ricki Cummings 16:58
Yeah.

E Elle Billing 16:59
Oh, now we're 2019 we're in the next year.

R Ricki Cummings 17:03
Yay.

E Elle Billing 17:05
April of 2019. My name is Winky. I am a deaf dog. She has a consistent style. I used to be a very anxious dog but now I am a brave dog. Sometimes things scare me though. Among the things I feel a fright or at least some wise suspicion are the laundry chute, the furnace kicking in, and the laundry chute when the furnace kicks in. I do not like passages and holes if I can't tell where it goes. No way Jose or Josie? No way to you too. It's true. Yeah, she didn't like that hole.

R Ricki Cummings 17:42
Well, she just didn't like the basement in that house in general. Yes. Did not want to be in there.

E Elle Billing 17:48
No. Okay, August. Hi, my name is Winky. This morning I stretched out like a people and acted like the little spoon and snuggled in bed with mom. And it was so cute. I hope she forgot about how I farted on her pillow on Tuesday when I ate too much ice cream you know, I have to say the other night. Okay, so like I know that like senior citizens, like lose their sense of smell as they get older. But like I didn't realize the extent to which that is true until I have lived with my parents now for almost two years. They will be watching TV and Winky will almost kill me. With, like, cracking off a horrible horrible Flatus and my parents have no idea what's going on. It was like how like I know you don't smell much. But how do you miss something that like deadly it's so bad. Like I can taste it in the air. How do they not know Oh?

R Ricki Cummings 18:53
That's awful.

E

Elle Billing 18:55

Okay, who was feeding who was feeding her people food again? Like, come on. I can smell it.

R

Ricki Cummings 19:01

Luckily, I've never been around for the really bad ones. I mean, she's done a couple rank ones in bed but like there is just never been a time where I'm like no, I need to be in a different room now. Ideally outside the house. Oh.

E

Elle Billing 19:15

oh, that Dog, that dog. Hi, my name is Winky. I am a deaf dog. I was a smelly dog today but I had a bath. I was a good dog in the bath. I got so clean and then the drain clogged haha. I am a shedding monster, but at least I no longer smell of compost. Then I went to the DQ and then to school I met new friends. Hi, Kimmie! I ran outside and then I found the sprinklers. What a busy day. now I'm pooped. Maybe that's why mom calls me a poop dog, but probably not. October 2019 My name is Winky and I am a deaf dog. I am a champion digger. You need something buried. I will bury it. You need your apples buried. I will bury your apples so good. I will put a whole apple in my champion dog mouth and carry it for five whole minutes until I find the best hole and put it in there. I will cover it so good. It's like personal action compost from your favorite dog Winky. Apples not included. You must provide your own apples Oh, that was the summer she spent like that happen. And she wrote that in October, but that was the summer she had spent several weeks trying to pick one specific apple off the tree.

R

Ricki Cummings 20:38

She did that a lot. Cuz she did that when I was there too.

E

Elle Billing 20:42

Yeah. Later in October again in 2019. Though my name is Winky and I am a deaf dog. I may be deaf but I know what an alarm clock is. And I know how many times is a suitable number to snooze your clock and I will go to great lengths to make you get out of bed and go to work. Among my many skills are the sneaky pounce, the blanket steal, and disarming you with an adorable cuddle and then licking your face. I'm a very good dog. Yes, indeed.

R

Ricki Cummings 21:10

The face, the the sneaky face lick is probably-- it's certainly the most motivating.

E

Elle Billing 21:17

It's like, oh, I don't want that to happen again.

R Ricki Cummings 21:19
Well, because it's it's so alarming and unappealing.

E Elle Billing 21:26
Yeah.

R Ricki Cummings 21:28
This needs to be taken care of right now.

E Elle Billing 21:31
November 2019. My name is Winky, and I am a deaf dog. Do you hate tags? Me too? Don't worry. You're pretty human head about it. I am an expert Tag Remover. Do you maybe have a concern that the mattress and pillow authorities might discover my sneaky tag removal? Do not fret your head about that either. I am not called Slinky Winky for no reason. I am so slinky. I can remove tags from your sleeping apparatus while you are using it. And if the authorities arrive, it will either be so well hidden or so wet with my saliva, we will be in no danger at all. You're welcome. So that was the day I woke up and she had removed the tag from my weighted blanket while I was using it. I will say what happened, right?

R Ricki Cummings 22:19
Why is Why is how is this there?

E Elle Billing 22:22
Okay, last one of 2019; last day of the year, we were eating ice cream for New Year's Eve. My name is Winky. I am a deaf dog. Mom and I ate ice cream. I had mine in one big cold chomp and then I had a big cold regret. Now we are snuggling and watching Star Trek Discovery. It's been a long December, but there's reason to believe maybe this year will be better than the last. She had like, instead of licking the ice cream like she used usually does. She just took the whole thing in her mouth and like, ate it.

R Ricki Cummings 22:58
I remember you describing this.



E Elle Billing 23:00

She went cross eyed. I kind of felt bad for laughing but like I've never seen like I've never visually seen someone with brain freeze before. Yeah.

R Ricki Cummings 23:19

Well, part of it is like she's so expressive. Yeah. Like she has even for a dog. She has really expressive eyes. And when something's not right, and she's very confused at the same time. Yeah, she gets a very concerned face. Yeah, so.

E Elle Billing 23:42

Oh, funny. You mentioned that the next one. February 2020. So we're getting close to like when you came to stay, and yeah. So my name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog. I have a concern. Do you see the concern on my beautiful alert face? It is because I am a noble working breed. attune to changes in my environment and in my herd. I have a herd of one and she is having a tough time. Yes, indeed. She has had four migraines in four weeks. This is most definitely a change in my herd. I am no doctor but I have the ability to offer the power of reassurance, I can play without barking, and I can sleep very cuddly next to my herd when she is in bed. I even checked on her during a nap today. If I could drive I would take her to the people vet. my poor herd

R Ricki Cummings 24:31

The people vet.

E Elle Billing 24:32

The people bed Yeah. March 31 2020. Yeah, so that's the beginning of lockdown.

R Ricki Cummings 24:40

Yeah, I have one from the 27th. Okay, so my name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog. There's a new people in my house, but I was very brave and they were very nice. And so now they're part of my herd and I keep them in line. Things are very scary right now, but I'm going to keep doing my job and making sure my herd is safe. It's hard, but as long as my herd is safe, I'm happy. Yeah, so yeah, like you said beginning a lockdown. So because like I got there I think the week after Chicago public schools closed

E Elle Billing 25:17

and then we had an earthquake.

R Ricki Cummings 25:18
Yeah.

E Elle Billing 25:20
First week you were there. Yeah. My name is Winky and I am a deaf dog. I am a deaf Cowdog I must herd. I must herd the two humans in my house. I must herd them into the same room. I must herd them onto the same couch. They are home all the time. So my working day is very long. I have a great big job to herd these human cows into one space because they wander all over. My goodness. I thought they would be better trained by now. I was wrong. HOORF! so that's where that's where she, that's where Hoorf came from.

R Ricki Cummings 25:49
I have an April 2,

E Elle Billing 25:51
I have an April 3.

R Ricki Cummings 25:55
Oh goodness. She was stealing both our laptops.

E Elle Billing 25:58
I know.

R Ricki Cummings 26:00
April 2 My name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog. I do not understand things like outdoor temperature or quarantine. I have a dog routine and my herd should be up and grazing when the sun comes up and in bed when the sun goes down and in between it's my job to make sure that they don't stay in one spot too long or they eat all the good bits of turf and damage the ranch. Look at this face. I mean business.

E Elle Billing 26:26
April 3 My name is Winkie and I'm a deaf dog. This is how we do pain days at the Art ranch. Here's a Winkie PSA (puppy service announcement). You are not working from home. You are at home during a pandemic attempting to work. it's okay to struggle and snuggle your dog;

pants optional.

R Ricki Cummings 26:44
That's still valid?

E Elle Billing 26:46
I think so.

R Ricki Cummings 26:47
Because like it's still a pandemic.

E Elle Billing 26:51
pants are still optional. She still dance, does her pants dance when I put my pants on in the morning?

R Ricki Cummings 26:57
Oh man, does she ever. My name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog. It's almost time for my friend Sadie and her owner Josiah to come visit. yesterday when I when they got here. I made lots of noise to let them know I was happy. It was loud. I was loud and happy. Today I am patient and waiting because I am a good dog. Winky had like even though the weather was nice, and we were, you know home for a pandemic and stuff, like between your disability and my house work, and my disability and your housework. It was hard to do things in a routine for her. So we would get a dog walker, who happened to be a friend of yours already. So when it was time for the dog walker to show up every day, about 10 minutes beforehand, Winky would just get up, climb up in the window and just look out the window. Whether the blinds were there or not. She would get in between the blinds and just wait. And then when she saw their vehicle coming down the road she just absolutely lost her shit just completely lost her mind.

E Elle Billing 28:04
Oh, yeah, it was great.

R Ricki Cummings 28:06
Yeah.



E Elle Billing 28:06

And that's the next one I have is like my name is Winky and I have a I'm a deaf dog. This has been a very hard week. I mean, I get to play with my buddy Josiah every day, and I can boop snoots with the neighbor's dog, and I get to eat dog cheese. So she had lots of good stuff going on. But my mom spends all the time in that room I don't like on her computer camera and she's very very tired. Today I offer her and all other teachers the paw of reassurance. So yeah, lockdown was a big change for all of us.

R Ricki Cummings 28:36

Next one I have is May 4.

E Elle Billing 28:38

Yep.

R Ricki Cummings 28:39

My name is Winky, and I'm a deaf dog. Today I went to visit my friend Sadie and we played in the yard and then I splashed around in the pool and pretended I was an Australian sea cow dog. You might think this would make me tired but Haha, you have been fooled. I am only storing up my energy here so I can sprint across the house at full speed to run into the couch with my paws and get mom's attention because you see, I'm actually an Australian land cow dog and I need to run! speed and barks baby. And if I remember right the picture of that was her just laying there just sprawled out on the floor. So it was like the least Winky least speed related picture but man she is a tricky dog. And I'm pretty sure like 10 minutes later, she was trying to get out of the house again.

E Elle Billing 29:29

So I'm sure she was

R Ricki Cummings 29:32

May 27. My name is Winky, and I am a deaf dog. Being deaf however, it does not mean I do not delight in making a heck of a lot of sound. Here. You might think I'm being quiet, but I'm actually just pausing for a moment between wines. I might even make a very large Bork who knows? we'll see! I might just whine and spin in many circles.

E Elle Billing 29:55

August 28 My name is Winky. I am a deaf dog. It has been a rough couple of weeks over here. First I had allergies. Then when those were getting better the smoke rolled in from all the fires. And my mom went back to work. She had been home since March and I was so very spoiled

and happy. Isn't there a pandemic on? Why did she leave the safety of our sweet home? This gave me a concern. Well, anyway, this week I had some gnarly scabs are something on my back. Mom does not handle it well, when I am out of sorts. She cried and said she was sorry and she loved me. But I'm not dying. Jeez. Today we went to the vet. Everyone there thinks I am the cutest and they are correct. But now I have a weird buzz cut on my butt. Good grief. Anyway, I have folliculitis which I cannot pronounce. I'm pooped all the stress is making me tired. I don't know how you humans do it.

R

Ricki Cummings 30:46

I have folliculitis which I can't pronounce.

E

Elle Billing 30:49

Oh, yeah, I just pronounced it. Yeah, I can pronounce it Winky. Can't. Yeah, September. My name is Winky. I am a deaf dog. I am a cow dog. My job is to protect the herd and all the things the herd loves. Today I am monitoring the perimeter for squirrels and one birb. but those squirrels? they stand no chance against my laser sharp eyes and speedy feet. If they attack in pairs and divert my attention. I will run back and forth along the fence line. ha!, I am a smart dog.

R

Ricki Cummings 31:18

I also have one from September. My name is Winky and I have a deaf dog. I have come here to tell you the word of the day. Every day does not have a word but today does and that's why I'm here. Ricki. Stop singing please because Bird is not the word. Danielle already tried that while she was making coffee and I told her No! bad girls. That is not the word! The word of the day is CHOMPH. Thank you for your time. I will now take questions from my fans and select members of the press in between my happy spins.

E

Elle Billing 31:50

another one from September. My name is Winky and I am a deaf dog. I love you and I do you a lap sit

R

Ricki Cummings 31:55

Oh, that was so nice.

E

Elle Billing 31:57

Yeah. September was a busy month. My name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog. I saw a car park across the street and I thought it was my buddy. I demanded to be let out. Imagine my disappointed and embarrassed countenance when I smelled the tires and felt my wrongness to

my very claws. If I could facepalm my would, alas I have no palms. But mom did me a surprise and got my leash. a walk? no a heckin bamboozle! we returned to the sight of my shame and knocked on the door. may lightning strike me down on the spot. Two adorable buddies emerged from the house. friends of dogs delight, they knew how to administer pets and ear scritches. I'm glad to be a deaf dog because little kids ask very nosy questions and tell very long life sagas but the day is saved in my shame will soon be forgotten. hoorf hoorf hooray! My name is Winky, and I am a deaf dog. Sometimes I pretend to be a people. I am not a people. Today I cost as much as a people I cost 143 people dollars. Perhaps I should have my sainthoodness of spins revoked because I did the thing Papa Dan always warned us about: if you mess around, someone will get hurt. In my case, the emphasis was on around and around and around and around. I was spinning and then I tried to go down the back step and I banged my foot on the door. I banged it so hard I cracked the nail inside the nail bed. It hurts so bad. This happened on Friday. Today Dr. Dean gave me a little operation. He is not a people doctor. He is a people who is a doctor just to clarify. Now I have to keep this little paw dry and clean and wrapped for three whole days. I am definitely giving mom all the pity looks and hopping around like a baby roo. but the nail bed, you guys! my speedy speedy squirrel chase has been ground to a halt. I look like a little adorable kangaroo so that's okay? hehe. I'm a dingo-roo. and then September again the next day. My name is Winky and I am a deaf dog. I am borking to tell you the cat did me a fright. She popped out of a box and bopped my nose and I was given a fright. This cat vexes me!!!!

R

Ricki Cummings 34:17

that cat still does that.

E

Elle Billing 34:18

She does. She doesn't help that she's all black and likes to hide.

R

Ricki Cummings 34:23

Yeah, she did it to people in the basement of the hous when you sold the house she's like hop out of the crawlspace blah and scare people but she does it here at the apartment too because she will she will hide in literally any space, but my favorite is when she tries to hide in the middle of room in like broad daylight. She knows that she's black and she can hide at night like she can't be seen but Bao is not the smartest cat sometimes and she thinks that her coloration imparts special powers during the day as well and that is not true. And so like it and we tell her we're like Bao, we can see you and she looks at us like we have doughnuts flying out of her eyes or something. She's just like, no.

E

Elle Billing 35:26

Yeah, she used to pick on Winky.

R

Ricki Cumminas 35:28

Ricki Cummings 37:29

Yeah, October 19 My name is Winky and I am a deaf dog. Mom has been having a hard time lately. So my friend Ricki name-sign "ear scratches" came to visit for a while. I barked mightily when they arrived because I was surprised and scared but by morning I remembered Ricki and their excellent ear scratch abilities. Now we're buddies again and I spend all my time going inside and outside and sometimes going on walkies. today, that wind is very windy and it gives me a big unease bomb calls it crazy making wind and maybe she's right, but I also spin a lot and that might make me crazy. Also. This is a week later. My name is Winky. I am a deaf dog. I have very particular routines. I get up very early in the morning to go potty. But since I am dog, I cannot open the door and have to hoarf and whine until someone gets out of bed to do so. And sometimes I eat breakfast. Regardless of that I spend the next four hours or so hopping in and out of bed to make sure that people know I'm awake. Sometimes I bark at them. They are the herd! it's time for grazing herd! and I won't stop until everyone who is awake. Sometimes this means lots of barks. But then they get up and that means I did a good job. I can rest and look out the window to protect the herd from the man that brings letters and the man that brings boxes and the big metal animals that rumble down the street in a very menacing way. I can't hear them, but I can feel them rumble. Sometimes they get too close and I have to bark at them to let them know that this is my herd. I take care of them. They just keep rumbling right away from here. I am very good at my job. And then a couple days later, my name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog. You may think I appear calm and I do, but underneath this is the urge the urge to move to spin to run to whimper with reckless abandon to grovel and beg for attention. But I am a good dog. A calm dog. Just look at me. A rock of calmness in a boiling sea of hoorfs.

E

Elle Billing 37:31

truth.

R

Ricki Cummings 37:32

Yeah. My name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog. That doesn't mean I don't know when Ricky is singing. And I don't like it one bit. Not one bit.

E

Elle Billing 37:44

She is not a fan of singing and sneezing.

R

Ricki Cummings 37:47

Yeah, it's almost insulting.

E

Elle Billing 37:51

Like the, like the two things she can hear. Yeah, and she hates them.

R Ricki Cummings 38:00
The next one I have is March 14 through 2021.

E Elle Billing 38:04
Okay. Yeah, go ahead.


R Ricki Cummings 38:06
Oh, she was really busy that spring,

E Elle Billing 38:09
but that's when we were getting ready to move

R Ricki Cummings 38:11
March 14. My name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog. My favorite activities include snuggles and mad dashes across the yard. Sometimes the urge to do these activities is such that I must do both at the same time. It's so confusing. I want to snuggle and my people are okay with snuggling. But also I want to run the backyard path and the people are okay with that. But for some reason they don't like it when I snuggle and then run and then snuggle and then run and then run and then snuggle and then run. don't they also want to have all the things? Time is an illusion humans you can do and achieve all the things simultaneously just like me. All you must do is accept a little hoofing and a lot of spinning. The spin helps with doing many things at once. And the Hoof is just a natural byproduct of being so good at everything. You never get tired when everything happens all at once. This is the next day my name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog I think I am a cat sometimes especially when I'm waiting for mom to come home. I know I'm a cat because this is what the cat does. She was sitting on the back of the couch.

E Elle Billing 39:22
I was going to ask if this was when she was like sleeping in the back of the couch like a cat.

R Ricki Cummings 39:26
Yep, I know I'm a cat because this is what the cat does. I see no difference between us. And then the next week my name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog. My job is to protect the herd here I'm doing so by sleeping on a herd member. I am very good at my job. I don't remember which one of us she was sleeping on.



E

Elle Billing 39:47

Who even knows.

R

Ricki Cummings 39:48

April 4 My name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog. You might think I look annoyed or suspicious here and that's because I am. It seems somebody fixed the fence holes I used for making sure the herd is safe. And also that I use for chewing on and I think I know who did it a churlish photographer and sometime amateur carpenter by the name of Ricki. I think I was Winkie's nemesis for a while there.

E

Elle Billing 40:16

Well, because she thought she got away with eating the fence. Yeah, like she didn't think that we saw it break.

R

Ricki Cummings 40:24

Yeah.

E

Elle Billing 40:25

And then when we indicated that yes we did see you do that? Yes. Like the look on her face was like the slow motion Oh shiiiiiii.

R

Ricki Cummings 40:36

Well, I think this was a different hole. Oh, I think this was this was the hole that she had like gnawed around on the inside, but not the one that she like broke. She broke one by like bouncing into that and that was the one where she was like, Oh, I'd done a big bad here. And then she just like backed away from it slowly like nothing had happened. And like that that one was probably one of my favorite visual memories of her was just like the slow realization that she screwed up. I have one more from April.

E

Elle Billing 41:14

Okay,

R

Ricki Cummings 41:14

so April 21 My name is Winky and I am a deaf dog. I have been a sick little doggo for a few days and I can't be bothered to skitter away from the camera. I'm feeling better though. And soon no more selfies because I am sneaky meaning I will sneak away if pictures are involved. Ricki did

more series because I am sneaky meaning I will speak away if pictures are involved. Ricky and me a bamboozle and tricked me. I wanted snuggles but instead picture

E

Elle Billing 41:39

May 2 My name is Winky and I am a deaf dog and sometimes I sleep with my eye kind of open. it freaks out my mom which is reason enough to do it. zombie dog one, moms zero like at this point, I was on medical leave and we were in the process of selling my house so like life was getting chaotic.

R

Ricki Cummings 42:02

Really weird for Winky. Yeah, cuz I have one. Also from the second, so, okay. My name is Winky, and I'm a deaf dog. Last night, I had a big concern because mom and Ricky were out very late. I would have stayed up to scold them, but the lure of the comfy bed was too much. They definitely got disappointed eyes for me when they came home Finally, after midnight, and woke me up as penance today I am showing mom what discipline looks like by sitting very still, so I can have some toast for breakfast. So still, I have excellent impulse control, something that humans don't like children.

E

Elle Billing 42:47

Well, we'd been at our friend's wedding the night before. May 19. My name is Winky and I am a deaf dog. I'm getting used to this idea of selling the house because I get special trips and special treats when an agent needs to show the house. Tonight the ice cream was in the bottom of a cup and I had to work for it.

R

Ricki Cummings 43:09

May 29 My name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog. Every time mom goes out by herself I think she's never coming back. So I must keep constant watch. watching sends my doggy vibes into the universe to bring mom home safe. Sometimes I sit on the couch because I think I'm a cat. But mostly I just stand because I'm a dog. A deaf dog. Mom If you're reading this I love you and miss you. Please bring me treats. Thank you. And then June 15 This was in Montana, I'm pretty sure just given the context clues with it. June 15 My name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog mom and Ricky and me and bow kung pao chicken baby meow meow have been having a very stressful few days. Last night we drove until very late and I was a very good passenger except for the times I got lonely and tried to jump into the front seat with mom. It's morning time now and I just ate a whole breakfast mom is still sleeping and Ricky is doing something with her phone. We're staying at the hotel. There is a very small microwave. outside there is a very noisy dam with water falling over it all the time. But I am unbothered because I can't hear it. It is very impressive to look at though. Today we will be driving through the mountains and forest and maybe I'll get to see a bison I bet I could heard one if I tried. They're just like cattle and I'm a cattle dog. Mom says this big trip will be over soon and I'll be happy that because then I can run and spin for now. I just have to be quiet and stay in the car. I'm glad I get such a good herd.

My name is Winky and I'm a deaf tired dog. Mom said there are 5 Xennials, 4 kids, three dogs, two boomers and a partridge in a pear tree on the farm today. I don't get the joke because I'm a dog that is true. So many things going on, and I just want to net.

E

Elle Billing 45:01

that was a busy weekend. June 28 2021 My name is Winky and I am a deaf dog. I am a farm dog now but I have city dog peets. I'm holding peets with mom because getting used to farm life is a lot of practice and we are tired. We are mutual. We need mutual comfort. Today I learned the joy of scritchies from grandma-- I wrote grandma nasty--and she because she has long nails. in return, I taught her how I will tell her more scritchies please. She caught on pretty good. Papa Dan also gives good scritchies and has a good leg to lean on. It's still pretty messy around here and there's a lot of boxes but I have a few favorite places to chill out. And I do like the big yard. I just gotta wait for my Pete's to toughen up.

R

Ricki Cummings 45:49

Yeah, yeah, her poor little pads were pretty raw.

E

Elle Billing 45:55

Yeah. July 5, my name is Winky. I am a deaf dog. I am unbothered by thunder and unperturbed by fireworks. Let me tell you though, people around here do not eat on a schedule and that gives me a heck of concern. I spend a lot of time watching people walk from room to room snacking and munching hoping they will drop food. No one drops food. My nose is busy but no morsels to be found. My puppy eyes are busy too, but they are impervious to my sweet sorrowful stares. What a life August My name is Winky and I am a deaf dog. I added more accomplishments to my farm dog accomplishment list. After my grooming. I went to the big farm and talked shop with the guys. I was a little nervous because I have very little experience with talking shop. But I got many scratches and I think that means I did a good job. My only disappoint was no treats dropped under the table. Maybe next time.

R

Ricki Cummings 46:53

I suppose the guys were too busy talking

E

Elle Billing 46:55

too busy talking shop.

R

Ricki Cummings 46:56

This is May 5 2022 Hi. My name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog. One of my favorite things about being alive aside for going out for runs in the muck and chasing balls and drinking water after

running in the muck and chasing balls is the internet. But Winky you might be saying you can't use the internet you don't have thumbs and this is true. I do not have thumbs, but what I do have is help mom can take pictures of me and we can stay connected with friends like Ricky who live far away most of the time, it is good to stay in touch with friends. Plus mom tells me Ricky will be back again soon for running in the muck and throwing balls for me to chase. So in conclusion, yay for the internet for friends for much for chasing and for mom, so much to be happy about.

E

Elle Billing 47:45

awwwwww.

R

Ricki Cummings 47:48

That was the whole post. She was very intense with that ball. May 25 My name is Winky and I'm a deaf doc. I just spent two days traveling across prairie and Forest and mountains and then back to forest and now I'm back in the desert that used to be my home. Mom and Ricky drove. It would be silly to go all that way that fast on my peets. But I bet I could. I guess Mom is seeing some kids and they're both seeing friends. And they don't know it yet, but I'm taking them to the dog park. We'll be going back to the farm in a few days. But for now I've traded in dandelions for goat heads and sloughs for sagebrush. Adventure.

E

Elle Billing 48:35

May 26 My name is Winky and I am a deaf dog. Traveling with me isn't adventure. And by adventure I mean that I will leave you puzzled and confused about what's going on in my head. And joke's on you because I won't tell either. Okay, maybe I will tell you a little bit. I do not like vinyl flooring. Good luck getting me to eat and drink like a normal dog when my normal habits involve dishes on the floor but my face and whole body say no floor only bed. Don't worry. I believe in you. You people are smart and crafty and I will not starve. If all else fails we can get some more soup from the neighbors. That was sneaky.

R

Ricki Cummings 49:12

My name is Winky and I'm a deaf dog. We are back home on the farm. We got back Sunday and I was very tired. So I went straight to bed even though my favorite cousins were here. Yesterday I got up and played with them a little bit and I got very wet playing in the grass and then it got wetter by laying down in the big puddle and then a big storm came and the power went out and then Mom sang a song from Annie and the sun came out. I mean the lights came on now it started raining but it's very windy. It makes the house make noise but I am unbothered because I am a deaf dog but my normal routine is back and I had breakfast and I'm gonna go back to snoozein. I love my bed and my farm and my puddle. I hope your day gets to have comfort and people and fun too

E

Elle Billing 49:54

June 4 My name is Winkie and I am a deaf dog today is my gotchaversary. In my four years with this human, we have had some grand adventures. We've had more mundane adventures than grand adventures though. That is okay because every day with a Winkie dog is a grand day indeed. My favorite sneaky treats are popcorn and whatever Fancy Nancy wants to give me, but mom says no, I have been cut off from people food can you imagine? I am living my best life on the farm. There. There's lots of running to do and so many smelly things to find. Also, I can follow Papa Dan for hours while he does yard work and I never get bored. I just carry my orange ball the whole time and sometimes he throws it and sometimes he hides it in his pocket and then later surprise, here comes the orange ball and zoom. There I go. What a life. spring planting has disrupted my otherwise very strict routine. lately. I fall asleep on the porch while waiting for Papa to get home because I am used to 5pm but apparently fields do not operate on a Winkie clock. Soon I will help Fancy Nancy in the garden again. Anyway, happy gotcha day to me the goodest dog in all the land.

R

Ricki Cummings 51:02

June 17 My name is Winky and I am a deaf dog. Something you may not know about me is I love to play fetch and catch. it is a valuable workout for me to keep my hurting dog physique and keep my brain making happy chemicals. Sometimes if I don't play I even have trouble sleeping at night, and I keep mom and Ricky awake by poking them with my snoot until they let me out in the dark so I can run run run run run while the spooky coyotes yell spookily and make mom and Ricky worried for me. But I always come back after my run because I can't hear the spooky coyotes. Anyway ball. I make Ricki or grandma or papa Dan throw the ball and sometimes Ricky has to put ice on her throwing leg because I guess it hurts sometimes. I'm glad everyone loves me so much and that they'll throw the ball until it hurts because I will totally chase it until I flop over. Hopefully it won't be too hot this weekend for throwing. Ricky says over 100. Is that a lot? Is that hot? I hope not because I have very thick furs.

E

Elle Billing 52:01

So November. Hi, my name is Winkie. I am a deaf dog. Today I went to the vet for a bath and nail trim. I go there because bathing me is a big job and it makes my mom very tired and sore. The techs at the vet love me quite a lot. They give me bacon (yum!) and hot dogs (gross !) and lots of love. Today I made a new friend. She says I am chiseled. That was a new compliment for me. She also called me at Track Star I guess all this running and jumping and spinning has made me a very muscled physique. I'm like an Australian Doggess goddess or something. Awooo, follow me for more workout tips. Okay, so those got weirder and weirder as time went on.

R

Ricki Cummings 52:46

They really did

E

Elle Billing 52:50

I think it's safe to say, I mean, a lot of people adopted puppies or adopted new pets, but

especially puppies and dogs during COVID. Because a lot of people were home all the time.

R Ricki Cummings 53:01

Yeah.

E Elle Billing 53:02

And their kids were home all the time. And they're like, Oh, we can totally get a dog. Unfortunately, there are a lot of shelters that are seeing increases in surrendered dogs now that people are returning to work and not working from home or like they realize Oh, puppies are not just a thing you get on a whim. I know my relationship with my dog changed a lot when I went from working at the school to like working from home to then going back to the school to being at home again. Like her separation anxiety now is worse than it was before. Because she's so used to having me around now that if any that if we leave her home alone, she gets distressed about it.

R Ricki Cummings 53:41

Yeah.

E Elle Billing 53:42

But all this to say quarantine made everybody weird.

R Ricki Cummings 53:46

Oh, man. Yeah.

E Elle Billing 53:47

And like those of us who were weird anyway, or who were like weird about our pets, it was like the perfect opportunity to like, go off the deep end. Yeah. In regards to like, hobbies and pets and stuff. You remember, like how everybody was getting into baking bread? Yeah. And like there was no flour at the store. Yeah.

R Ricki Cummings 54:06

Or like that thing where people were like recreating classical paintings.

E Elle Billing 54:11

I assign that that was a homework for my drama kids. I made them pick, pick a classical painting and like, or a piece of art or and recreate it at home with props and costumes.

R

Ricki Cummings 54:23

That's pretty funny. I did not know that you did that. And I wish I would've seen that.

E

Elle Billing 54:28

Yeah, it was pretty rad. We got some good ones. Yeah. So Hoarf and St. Winkus the character of my dog as Saint Winkus came out of quarantine.

R

Ricki Cummings 54:41

Yeah. And baking

E

Elle Billing 54:42

and baking because my friend Dean who gets mentioned several times in my dog's diary, he and I like cooking shows. And he and I got into watching the Great British Bake Off, but sort of asynchronously. So he and I were watching different seasons.

R

Ricki Cummings 54:59

Yeah.

E

Elle Billing 54:59

In our separate homes because we were all isolating, right, but then we'd like text each other while we were watching bakeoff be like, Oh, what are you? What are you watching? What are they making on your episode? Here's what they're making on mine and like, I am a glutton. I love food so much. I love baking. But more than that, I love having people bake for me. And I those shows are so comforting to me. But they're also a little bit sad because I can't eat anything on them. So it's like this weird comfort of like, I like watching other people enjoy yummy baked food, but I can't ever make any of it. So like you and I will watch a bake off. And we spend half the time trying to figure out like the one thing from an episode I could eat.

R

Ricki Cummings 55:46

Right, right, right.



E

Elle Billing 55:47

And so we spent-- we watch it with my parents too. And try to find one thing that everybody in the house would eat if we baked it. So you want to talk about what happened with the dampnoodle?

R

Ricki Cummings 55:57

Well, yeah, so like the episode that I remember you and Dean and I all like bonding over with I don't remember what season it was.

E

Elle Billing 56:10

But I don't remember watching the episode,

R

Ricki Cummings 56:13

didn't you?

E

Elle Billing 56:13

I don't remember. Like I remember getting the recipe from Dean and going. Oh, I would totally eat this

R

Ricki Cummings 56:19

Yes. So anyway, he --

E

Elle Billing 56:21

I don't know. I can't remember if we watched it or not. i

R

Ricki Cummings 56:24

Okay, well, maybe it was like a bonding over the actual making of it then because I remember the Dean made it before we did.

E

Elle Billing 56:31

Yep.

—

R

Ricki Cummings 56:32

And he's like, this is the best thing ever. You guys should make it and so we ended up because like dampfnudel is basically like poached sweet rolls.

E

Elle Billing 56:43

It's like a steamed bun.

R

Ricki Cummings 56:45

Yeah. But like they're when when they bake. There's a layer of caramel on the bottom like caramel rolls or sticky buns. And then this is this is the really, this is the really indulgent part is that there's like a vanilla cream sauce. It's not frosting. It's not like whipped cream. It's like this sauce.

E

Elle Billing 57:12

It's custard sauce.

R

Ricki Cummings 57:14

Was it custard? I don't think it was no, no, I think you're thinking of the tart that we made last year, maybe. So it ends up being like I sent there was like eight of them total. But it was it was enough buns to cover the bottom of like a large stock pot. And like it was it was full of things that we shouldn't have. Like in your case. It was like, yeah,

E

Elle Billing 57:39

there was so much dairy.

R

Ricki Cummings 57:41

Like there was there was regular milk and half and half and heavy cream if I remember right.

E

Elle Billing 57:49

Yeah, there was whole milk. There's eggs. There's butter. There's Yeah, double cream whole milk. Yeah, more eggs.

R

Ricki Cummings 57:56

Yeah, it was just like it was so much stuff that we shouldn't have.

E Elle Billing 57:59

Oh my gosh,

R Ricki Cummings 58:00

but we ended up eating like 8 or 10 servings of it. In two days. We ate the whole like we ate about half of it the night that we finished it and then we ate the other half by like dinnertime. The next day. It was gone.

E Elle Billing 58:18

And the bloating. Oh, I mean, because it's just it's like flour rolls they're buns. Yeah, right. And they're steamed and they're so good. And they're so sweet. And there's so much. There's a poaching liquid, there's a plum sauce, and there's a vanilla sauce. I don't think we made the sauce

R Ricki Cummings 58:33

because you couldn't have plums.

E Elle Billing 58:35

And we were on the couch in our sweatpants. Like I can't believe I ate this much. Yeah. And like as a passing remark you said St Winkus, St. Winkus bless us in our time of bloating?

R Ricki Cummings 58:46

Yeah.

E Elle Billing 58:48

Because my dog likes carbs. Right? Like she likes popcorn and waffles and stuff. And just as sort of like a passing joke. You said "Saint Winkus, blessed us in our time of bloating," and it has it's snowballed. So St. Winkus is, she's the patron of carbs, spins and hoorfs. I mean, it's it's, it's completely it means nothing and it means everything. Yeah, like so then the next year because we had posted it on Facebook right, the next year like right, it reminded us about like, well, we have to do like we have to commemorate the Feast Day of Saint Winkus so we came up with like the Rites of St. Winkus, which I'll just read. Yeah. Okay. It says Today is the Feast Day of Saint Winkus, Blessed is she among Doggos. We the humble caretakers of St. Winkus, patron of carbs spins in hoorfs, have a proclamation writ by her own paw, on the rites of Saint

Winkus Day. henceforth to be observed on the 25th day of April. So the sweeping of the floors for they are riddled with the furs of her benevolence. Eating of the toast, performing of the ritual bathing of humans or doggos, but preferably humans, the sharing of the gift of carbs with thy neighbor, the spinning in a left wise direction. hoorfing, the ritual nap, performing of cuddles the, proffering of the paw reassurance. These are the rites of this feast day of St. Winkus, Hoorf.

R Ricki Cummings 1:00:06
Yeah,

E Elle Billing 1:00:07
I mean, what basically,

R Ricki Cummings 1:00:10
it's, but

E Elle Billing 1:00:13
we hadn't looked at this list in a while, but it's whatever. Yeah. It's like our whole ethos of the podcast too? Oh, yeah, building community and caring about people and

R Ricki Cummings 1:00:22
taking the time that you need

E Elle Billing 1:00:24
to spin and Hoorf nap and eat and leaning into what we love and what makes us weird. So that's Saint Winkus of Buttzville, which is a ghost town near the farm. Yeah. Blessed is she among dog O's. The thing that makes me most happy about this is that like, that's how, like veneration sort of happens. It just happens. You know, like, people decide, oh, we're gonna celebrate this person's folk hero this way. Yeah. And it just sticks. And like, I made prayer candles as a joke. That year, and like, several friends bought them. They're like, Oh, no, we have to buy these for my sisters like,

R Ricki Cummings 1:01:08
yeah. And like, occasionally still do that. That's part yeah. It's like, every once in a while one will go out. And it's just yeah, it's it's weird how it seems so relevant to other people, I think is like, here's our weird dog on a candle. And they're like, well, heck, I'll take two! you know, and it's, it

makes me happy to know that our dog is touching other people's lives in a weird, weird way.

E

Elle Billing 1:01:37

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1:02:47

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